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### **Tennessee's Expected Winter Wheat Production Down 12 Percent from 2016**

**NASHVILLE, Tenn.** – The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) released its May Crop Production report today based on the Agricultural Yield survey conducted at the beginning of the month. The report includes information on Tennessee's winter wheat forecast and on-farm hay stocks.

**Tennessee** farmers expect to harvest 21.5 million bushels of **winter wheat** during 2017. The expected crop for 2017 would be down 12 percent from the previous year. Farmers seeded 390,000 acres last fall with 295,000 acres to be harvested for grain. Based on crop conditions as of May 1 and assuming a normal growing season, farmers expect a yield of 73 bushels per acre, unchanged from 2016. Acres for other uses totaled 95,000 acres and will be used as cover crop or cut as silage or hay.

"Wheat production forecasts will be published monthly and are based solely on producer data reported on our Agricultural Yield Surveys," said Debra Kenerson, Tennessee State Statistician. "A sincere thank you to the agricultural producers who make these forecasts possible. Throughout the season, farmers can follow the condition of our wheat crop, which is available every Monday through our weekly Crop Weather report."

#### **Current Wheat Conditions**

As of May 7, winter wheat was rated zero percent very poor, seven percent poor, 22 percent fair, 58 percent good, and 13 percent excellent. Crop progress is 95 percent headed compared to 84 percent at this time last year and 71 percent for the five-year average.

Winter wheat production for the **Nation** was forecast at 1.25 billion bushels, down 25 percent from 2016. The expected area to be harvested for grain or seed totals 25.6 million acres, down 15 percent from last year. As of May 1, the U.S. yield was forecast at 48.8 bushels per acre, down 6.5 bushels from last year.

As of May 1, **Tennessee** on-farm **hay stocks** totaled 480,000 tons, down 70,000 from May 1, 2016 stocks. Farmers have used 84 percent of their hay stocks since December 1, 2016.

**U. S.** hay stocks were at 24.4 million tons, down 752,000 tons from 2016.

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State Statistician